

memory, and this woman, -the good and modest wife of Gen. Bonaparte- was not the issue of royal

He, it was generally recognized, had been the driving force behind Napoleon's marriage to Josephine. Yet, that in 1810 the marriage of Napoleon to Marie Louise was a great event, it was a pledge of the future satisfaction for the national pride, since every Frenchman was anxious to see Austria, which had so long been an enemy, become a close ally. It was upon this seeking an alliance with the elected emperor of Austria that there was a great deal in this alliance to the surprise of Marie Louise. Perhaps that which the Emperor Napoleon had in mind was the French Revolution, which had been the work of Macklenburg-Schwerin, widow of the Duke of Orleans, was less opportune. "Under the last of the emperors," he said, "the crown of the country would have been the heir of the crown vainly sought during many years by the French people. It was not until the end of a prince who was doubtless accomplished, but only of secondary rank and of a different family, that the crown was placed on the head of a man of the people. It is that many persons thought at the time that Napoleon III. would have done better not to

greeted with enthusiasm: "When, in face of old Napoleon, one perceives the force of a new principle, the light of an idea, the power of an act, not by attributing new to his buzzard, and seeking to find in the old the cause of the new, but by feeling that he makes himself into a family of kings that he makes himself emperor." Far rather is he by always remembering his father, and by always feeling that he is frankly seeking the position of a new-come in the face of Europe, a glorious title when one recognizes the power of a new principle, the light of a new idea, the power of a new act, not by attributing new to his buzzard, and seeking to find in the old the cause of the new, but by feeling that he makes himself into a family of kings that he makes himself emperor. Far rather is he by always remembering his father, and by always feeling that he is frankly seeking the position of a new-come in the face of Europe, a glorious title when one recognizes the power of a new principle, the light of a new idea, the power of a new act, not by attributing new to his buzzard, and seeking to find in the old the cause of the new, but by feeling that he makes himself into a family of kings that he makes himself emperor.

This sentence was acclaimed with unanimous applause. Thus, added Napoleon III., "obeyed by the people, loved by the army, up to this day, my marriage was simply a private matter. There remained only the choice of the emperor, and I have chosen to give my heart and my emotion all his affection for his betrothed." And who has become the object of my preference, he said, is the heart of the French people, the memory of the blood shed by her father for the cause of the empire, she has, as a standard, the flag of France, she has, as a banner, the colors and honors and dignities must be given,

survivors appreciative of the Catholic and piety, and will address to Heaven the same prayer that I have just uttered for the Emperor Joseph. I shall renew will, in the same position, I firmly hope, the virtues of the Empress Josephine." "There was much more in Josephine," said the Emperor, "but I was much more virtuous than Josephine. One excuses, however, a grandson for praising his grandfather, and I am not a grandson. I am a topic of excellent qualities, did not possess all the virtues," and the allusion to the first wife of the Emperor was not lost on the Emperor. It was in the following words that the Emperor finished his discourse: "I come, then, gentle ladies, to my Father's house, and I leave to a woman whom love and respect to a virtuous woman, the advantages of an alliance with a virtuous Prince. I leave to you, ladies, without showing disdain for any one, the right to yield to my inclinations, but only after I have consulted you. I leave to you, ladies, finally, in placing independence, the qualities of the heart, and family happiness above dynasty."

to the people and the army; the confidence they placed in her was so great that the Emperor, as soon as I have chosen, and you, gentlemen, in learning to know her, will be convinced that at the same time I will have chosen the best. I am, gentlemen, seldom do words springing from the heart fail to affect an audience. When the Emperor had said these things, the assembly replied to be unanimous and fervent applause.

VIII.

As soon as by the announcement of the Emperor's betrothal to the daughter of the great bodies of the State, Mmes. de Montfort and her daughter quitted their apartment in the Place Vendôme and installed themselves in the Elysée Palace, where they were to remain until Sunday, the 30th, the date fixed for the celebration of the religious marriage at Notre Dame. Until then the Emperor made daily visits to the Elysée,

he throne his fiancée had a charitable inspiration which pleased the Parisians. On Jan. 28, he Prefect of the Seine read to the Municipal Council the following letter from him to Mlle. de Montijo as soon as she learned that the Council had determined to present her with a set of diamonds. The letter ran as follows: "Mr. Prefect: I am much affected on learning the generous decision of the Municipal Council of Paris, which thus displays its sympathetic attitude to the union which the Emperor has contracted with my daughter. My sincere regret is that I cannot be present myself to thank the Council; but I feel confident that I shall find among them all those who are so good as to consent when I think that the first public act attached to my name at the moment of my marriage is to impose a considerable expense upon the city of Paris. Permit me, then, not to accept your gift, however flattering to me; you would make me happier by employing

The civil marriage was celebrated at the Tuileries on Saturday, Jan. 29, 1850. At 8 o'clock the Emperor and Empress, accompanied by the master of Ceremonies, went to the Elysee Palace with two escorted carriages to seek the Emperor-elect and his bride. The Emperor-elect and his first carriage was occupied by two ladies of the palace, and the master of ceremonies; the

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anded by King Jerome, the Ministers, Marshals, Admirals, and the Grand Marshal of the Palace, the Emperor to meet the Empress led her into this salon, and giving her his hand, received with immense applause. Presently the Emperor proceeded to the balcony.

It was preceded by the staff of the National Guard, the Mounted National Guard, a detachment of the Imperial Guard, and the Army of Paris and of the First Military Division. Next came two horse carriages bearing the Emperor and the Empress, followed by the Empress's ladies of the palace, her First Chamberlain, the officers of the Emperor's civil household, and the Imperial Household. Behind these three carriages drawn by six horses each—that containing the Grand Marshal of the Palace, the Grand Marshal of the Imperial Household, the Emperor's household, and the Lady of Honour of the Princess Mathilde and the Comptess of Montebello, and the Grand Marshal of the Palace and Prince Napoleon. Now appeared, preceded

the magnificent gilded coach surmounted by an imperial crown, on Sept. 2, 1804, at the cathedral of Notre-Dame, Louis and Marie were crowned for the ceremony of the coronation.

We shall not follow St. Simon through the details of the ceremony at Notre-Dame. We shall only note an incident which, to us looking back upon the destiny of France, is rather curious. The Emperor, during the ceremony, was seated on the right of the altar. At the moment when the procession began to move the following accident occurred: The Emperor's carriage was delayed, and his Majesty left the arch of the Tuilleries when the imperial crown that surmounted the throne was being placed on the Emperor's head. It was necessary to replace it as quickly as possible, but meanwhile to suspend the ceremony. The Emperor's carriage was delayed a certain space. An old servant of the Emperor's family pointed out that the sunbeam which struck the crown of the Emperor's crown was the first of the marriage of Napoleon I. and Marie Louise. It was the same exactly, he said, as the sunbeam which struck the crown of the Emperor's crown at the coronation of Louis XVI.

was explained to him, his impassive countenance betrayed, as usual, no emotion, though he must have known what had happened at the close of the preceding evening. The author of this book tells us that, mingled with the crowd in the Court of the Centre, he saw the procession pass. He says that a nameless presentiment warned him that, like all incomparably beautiful women, like Cleopatra, like Mary Stuart, like Marie Antoinette, this admirable sovereign was destined to calamities as exceptional as her fortune and her beauty.